



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 330

LCO No. 1878

01878_____PRI

Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

***AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
CONCERNING THE BEST PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2008*):

4 (d) (1) The Department of Education shall fund, within available
5 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational
6 service centers, a beginning teacher support and assessment program
7 to train Connecticut public school teachers and other qualified persons
8 approved by the Commissioner of Education and certified teachers at
9 private special education facilities approved by the commissioner and
10 at other facilities designated by the commissioner, who serve as
11 mentors or assessors for beginning teachers and who supervise, train
12 and assist or assess beginning teachers in their initial years in teaching
13 and to pay stipends to assessors. Beginning teachers shall participate in
14 a beginning teacher support and assessment program as made
15 available by the State Board of Education. School districts shall be

16 responsible for providing support to beginning teachers that includes,
17 but need not be limited to, the placement of beginning teachers with
18 trained teacher mentors. Local and regional boards of education shall
19 reduce the number of hours worked on regular classroom
20 responsibilities for teacher mentors. Such reduction of hours shall be
21 scheduled to ensure availability of the mentor to help the beginning
22 teacher during the beginning teacher's daily preparation time. Any
23 teacher mentor employed by the school district on a full-time basis,
24 who mentors part-time and assumes regular classroom responsibilities
25 part-time, shall receive the same compensation such teacher would
26 receive if such teacher assumed regular classroom responsibilities on a
27 full-time basis. No teacher mentor, who mentors on a full-time basis,
28 shall mentor more than fifteen beginning teachers simultaneously.

29 (2) The assessment of each beginning teacher shall be based upon,
30 but not limited to, data obtained from observations conducted by
31 assessors using an assessment instrument. On and after July 1, 2008, as
32 part of such assessment instrument, no beginning teacher shall be
33 required to complete a video component and shall, instead, be
34 assessed through on-site classroom observations as part of such
35 assessment instrument. A beginning teacher shall be assessed by
36 educators with teaching experience in the same general subject area as
37 such beginning teacher.

38 (3) The Department of Education may fund, within available
39 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational
40 service centers: [(1)] (A) A cooperating teacher program to train
41 Connecticut public school teachers and certified teachers at private
42 special education facilities approved by the Commissioner of
43 Education and at other facilities designated by the commissioner, who
44 participate in the supervision, training and evaluation of student
45 teachers; and [(2)] (B) institutes to provide continuing education for
46 Connecticut public school educators, assessors and cooperating
47 teachers and teacher mentors, including institutes to provide

48 continuing education for Connecticut public school educators offered
49 in cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council. [; and (3) a
50 beginning teacher support and assessment program to train
51 Connecticut public school teachers and other qualified persons
52 approved by the Commissioner of Education and certified teachers at
53 such private special education and other designated facilities who
54 serve as mentors or assessors for beginning teachers and who
55 supervise, train and assist or assess beginning teachers in their initial
56 years in teaching and to pay stipends to assessors.]

57 (4) Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly to
58 school districts for the provision of substitute teachers when
59 cooperating teachers, teacher mentors, beginning teachers and
60 assessors are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for
61 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating
62 and student teachers, teacher mentors, assessors and beginning
63 teachers.

64 (5) The cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and
65 assessment programs shall operate in accordance with regulations
66 adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with chapter
67 54, except in cases of placement in other countries pursuant to written
68 cooperative agreements between Connecticut institutions of higher
69 education and institutions of higher education in other countries. A
70 Connecticut institution may enter such an agreement only if the State
71 Board of Education and Board of Governors for Higher Education
72 have jointly approved the institution's teacher preparation program to
73 enter into such agreements. Student teachers shall be placed with
74 trained cooperating teachers. [Beginning teachers shall participate in a
75 beginning teacher support and assessment program as made available
76 by the board. School districts shall be responsible for providing
77 support to beginning teachers which shall include, but not be limited
78 to, the placement of beginning teachers with trained teacher mentors
79 who may be full or part-time teachers in the same or a different

80 building than the beginning teacher and provision of trained assessors
81 to conduct assessments of beginning teachers.]

82 (6) Cooperating teachers, teacher mentors and assessors may serve
83 concurrently in more than one capacity and may be assigned more
84 than one student teacher or beginning teacher in each such capacity.
85 [The assessment of each beginning teacher shall be based upon, but not
86 limited to, data obtained from observations conducted by assessors
87 using an assessment instrument. A beginning teacher shall be assessed
88 by educators with teaching experience in the same general subject area
89 as such beginning teacher.] Cooperating teachers and teacher mentors
90 who are Connecticut public school teachers and assessors who are
91 employed by school districts shall be selected by local and regional
92 boards of education. Cooperating teachers and teacher mentors and
93 assessors at [such private special education and other designated
94 facilities] private special education facilities approved by the
95 Commissioner of Education and at other facilities designated by the
96 commissioner, who participate in the supervision, training and
97 evaluation of student teachers, shall be selected by the authority
98 responsible for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education
99 is unable to identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such
100 positions, the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not
101 employed by the board of education to serve in such positions. [Such
102 regulations] Regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection shall
103 require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience and
104 recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-153a to
105 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection, placement
106 and compensation of persons participating in the cooperating teacher
107 and beginning teacher support and assessment programs pursuant to
108 the provisions of this section and to the hours and duties of such
109 persons. The State Board of Education shall protect and save harmless,
110 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235, any cooperating
111 teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in such capacity.

112 Sec. 2. (Effective July 1, 2008) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated

113 to the Department of Education, from the General Fund, for the fiscal
114 year ending June 30, 2009, for funding for local and regional school
115 districts to perform classroom teaching duties for teacher mentors who
116 are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for teacher
117 mentors who mentor full-time.

118 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
119 to the Department of Education, from the General Fund, for the fiscal
120 year ending June 30, 2009, to reimburse local and regional school
121 districts for costs associated with assessment of beginning teachers
122 through on-site classroom observations, as required pursuant to
123 subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes, as amended by
124 this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-220a(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-220a(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide funding for districts to provide better support for teachers participating in the beginning teacher support and assessment program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]